

# Byron L. Dorgan

U.S. Senate " 713 Hart Building " Washington D.C. 20510

E-mail: [senator@dorgan.senate.gov](mailto:senator@dorgan.senate.gov) " Internet Web Page: [www.senate.gov/~dorgan](http://www.senate.gov/~dorgan)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday

March 28, 2000

CONTACT: Barry E. Piatt

or Dana McCallum

PHONE: 202-224-2551

## **DORGAN ANNOUNCES DEVILS LAKE WEB SITE TO PROVIDE LATEST INFORMATION & CORRECT CANADA'S MISINFORMATION**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) announced Tuesday that an Internet web site will be constructed -- and hopefully completed within 30 days -- to provide policy makers and others interested in the on-going flood crisis in the Devils Lake region with the latest information about the flood and proposals for dealing with it. The site will also respond to what Dorgan described as "inaccurate information" put out by some in Canada about the proposed Devils Lake outlet.

Dorgan helped spear-head the effort to develop the web site. His office is working closely with local and regional government officials and the local NOAH Committee to create the site. He said the web site, which will be built and initially hosted by the Red River Trade Council, will also include information helpful to those who live and work in the Devils Lake region. The management and maintenance of the web site, once constructed, will be in the hands of local officials in the Devils Lake region.

A major component of the site, Dorgan added, will be to provide timely and accurate information in response to inaccurate information some in Canada are disseminating in public statements and over the Internet about the proposed Devils Lake outlet project. "Canada has every right to be heard in the discussions of the proposed emergency outlet, but it also has a responsibility to use accurate information," Dorgan said. "This web site will provide factual, reliable information about this project," Dorgan said.

"The web site will be helpful to policy makers, those who are dealing with the flood on a daily basis, and others who are just interested in the situation and want the latest information about what's happening," Dorgan said. "The one thing everybody needs in a situation like this is helpful, accurate, and timely information."

Components of the site will include the following:

- The flood story: Frequently updated photographs and information about Devils Lake flooding and its human and economic impact will be provided to allow policy makers and others across the country to know the latest status of the situation in the Devils Lake region.
- Setting the record straight: Misinformation put out by Canadian officials through public statements and on the Internet will be responded to and corrected. For example, a Canadian web site claims the emergency outlet would violate the Boundary Waters Treaty. That is false and the web site will correct that information with accurate information.
- Links to other web sites that will be helpful to those in the region responding to the flooding and who are seeking to preserve and strengthen their businesses in the area.

Dorgan said a target completion date has yet to be determined, "but the goal is to have the web site operating as soon as possible, hopefully within 30 days. We want everyone -- policy makers, those who live in the region, and those outside the region who care about what is happening there -- to have access to the most up to date, accurate information, as quickly as possible."

– END –